

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas delivery mask comprising:
a shell for supporting a cushion, the cushion is configured to contact a patient and deliver a gas to the patient;
a first connector associated with the shell;
a second connector adapted to be connected to a headgear, wherein the headgear includes at least one strap adapted to secure the mask on a ~~user~~patient; and
means for releasably connecting the first connector with the second connector such that the second connector is rotateable relative to the first connector in a plurality of axis of rotation simultaneously, whereby the first connector and the second connector interact to releasably interconnect the shell with the headgear.
2. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 1, wherein the first connector is a female connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding male connector.
3. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 2, wherein the first connector comprises a pair of a parallel walls and a curved notched wall abutting the parallel walls.
4. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 3, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an elongated opening adapted to receive a headgear strap.
5. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 4, wherein the second connector further comprises:
a post portion having an axis and extending from the elongated portion; and

a bulbous end portion associated with the distal end of the post portion, the bulbous end portion adapted for insertion in the notched wall of the first connector so as to permit 360 degrees of rotation about the axis of the post portion.

6. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 1, wherein the first connector is recessed with the shell and the first connector is a male connector integrally formed with the shell.

7. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 6, wherein the second connector is a corresponding female connector.

8. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 7, wherein the first connector comprises a flexible post portion, and a cone-shaped shaft associated with an end of the post portion.

9. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 8, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive a headgear strap.

10. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 9, wherein the second connector further comprises a post extending from the elongated portion and having opposed walls for rotateably receiving the cone-shaped shaft.

11. (Currently Amended) A gas delivery mask comprising:
a shell for supporting a cushion, the cushion is configured to contact a patient and deliver a gas to the patient;

a first connector associated with the shell;

a second connector having a first portion that is configured and arranged so as to releasably connect to the first connector and a second portion that is adapted to connect to a

headgear having at least one strap for securing the mask on a ~~user~~patient, and wherein the first connector and the second connector are configured and arranged such that the second connector is rotateable relative to the first connector in a plurality of axis of rotation simultaneously, whereby the first connector and the second connector interact to releasably interconnect the shell with the headgear.

12. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 11, wherein the first connector is a female connector integrally formed with the shell and wherein the second connector is a corresponding male connector.

13. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 12, wherein the first connector comprises a pair of a parallel walls and a notched wall abutting the parallel walls.

14. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 13, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive the strap.

15. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 14, wherein the second connector further comprises:

a post portion having an axis and extending from the elongated portion; and
a bulbous portion associated with a distal end of the post portion, the bulbous portion adapted for insertion in the notched wall of the first connector so as to permit 360 degrees of rotation about the axis of the post portion.

16. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 11, wherein the first connector is recessed with the shell.

17. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 11, wherein the first connector is a male connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding female connector.

18. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 17, wherein the first connector comprises a flexible post portion, and a cone-shaped shaft associated with an end of the post portion.

19. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 18, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive the strap.

20. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 19, wherein the second connector further comprises a post extending from the elongated portion and having opposed walls for rotateably receiving the cone-shaped shaft.

21. (Currently Amended) A patient interface assembly comprising:

(a) a gas delivery mask comprising:

(1) a shell for supporting a cushion, the cushion is configured to contact a patient and deliver a gas to the patient,

(2) a first connector associated with the shell, and

(3) a second connector releasably connected to the first connector, and wherein the first connector and the second connector are configured and arranged such that the second connector is rotateable relative to the first connector in a plurality of axis of rotation simultaneously; and

(b) ~~an headgear~~ a headgear adapted for securing the mask on a ~~user~~ patient comprising a connecting strap adapted to connect the headgear to the second connector, whereby the first connector and the second connector interact to releasably interconnect the shell with the headgear.

22. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 21, wherein the first connector is a female connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding male connector.

23. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 22, wherein the first connector comprises a pair of parallel walls and a notched wall abutting the parallel walls.

24. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 23, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive the strap.

25. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 24, wherein the second connector further comprises:

a post portion having an axis and extending from the elongated portion; and
a bulbous portion associated with an end of the post portion, the bulbous portion adapted for insertion in the notched wall of the first connector so as to permit 360 degrees of rotation about the axis of the post portion.

26. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 21, wherein the first connector is a male connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding female connector.

27. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 26, wherein the first connector comprises a flexible post portion, and a cone-shaped shaft associated with an end of the post portion.

28. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 27, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted for receiving the strap.

29. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 28, wherein the second connector further comprises a post extending from the elongated portion and having opposed walls for rotateably receiving the cone-shaped shaft.

30. (Original) The patient interface assembly of claim 21, further comprising a locking clamp coupled to the connecting strap.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering a breathing gas to a patient comprising:

(a) a gas flow generating device that produces a flow of gas;

(b) a conduit having a first end portion operatively coupled to the gas flow generating device and a second end portion, wherein the conduit is adapted to carry the flow of gas from the gas flow generating device during operation of the system;

(c) a gas delivery mask comprising:

(1) a shell for supporting a cushion, the cushion is configured to contact a patient and deliver the gas to the patient,

(2) a first connector associated with the shell, and

(3) a second connector releasably connected to the first connector and wherein the first connector and the second connector are configured and arranged such that the second connector is rotateable relative to the first connector in a plurality of axis of rotation simultaneously, and

(d) a headgear adapted to secure the mask on a ~~user~~patient, comprising:

a connecting strap adapted to connect the headgear to the second connector of the gas delivery mask, whereby the first connector and the second connector interact to releasably interconnect the shell with the headgear.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the first connector is a female connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding male connector.

33. (Original) The gas delivery mask of claim 32, wherein the first connector comprises a pair of parallel walls and a notched wall abutting ends of the parallel walls.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive the strap.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the second connector further comprises:

a post portion extending from the elongated portion; and

a bulbous portion associated with an end of the post portion, wherein the bulbous portion is adapted for insertion in the notched wall of the first connector.

36. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the first connector is a male connector integrally formed with the shell and the second connector is a corresponding female connector.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the first connector comprises a flexible post portion, and a cone-shaped shaft associated with an end of the post portion.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the second connector comprises an elongated portion having an opening adapted to receive the strap.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the second connector further comprises a post extending from the elongated portion and having opposed walls for rotateably receiving the cone-shaped shaft.

40. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a locking clamp coupled to the connecting strap.

41. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the gas delivery mask is a nasal mask or a nasal/oral face mask.

Claim 42. Cancelled.

43. (Previously Presented) The gas delivery mask of claim 1, wherein the plurality of axis of rotation comprise three axis of rotation.

44. (Previously Presented) The gas delivery mask of claim 11, wherein the plurality of axis of rotation comprise three axis of rotation.

45. (Previously Presented) The gas delivery mask of claim 21, wherein the plurality of axis of rotation comprise three axis of rotation.

46. (Previously Presented) The gas delivery mask of claim 31, wherein the plurality of axis of rotation comprise three axis of rotation.